

~~TOP SECRET~~

July, 1951

STATUS OF OPERATIONS AGAINST ALBANIA

All authorized phases of BGFIEND, the OPC Albanian Project, which was approved by ADPC on 22 June 1949, are currently being actively pursued by U.S. and foreign personnel assigned to this project.

1. INFILTRATION OPERATIONS: The 1951 BGFIEND infiltration program which envisages establishment of 40-50 agents (10-12 teams) is moving forward. Recently, 14 men have been dropped by the OPC covert airplane to three separate points within Albania. These representatives of the NCFA have been assigned the task of contacting and organizing friendly elements with the purpose of establishing safe houses, building resistance nets, and receiving drops of arms and supplies. The remainder of the agents will be dropped to their targets when their training at the covert school in Germany has been completed. In addition, the Albanian operation intends to utilize the services of Hamit Matiani, an Albanian resistance leader now in Greece, in August. A six-man operation over the Greek-Albanian border is planned. In summary, the infiltration program is proceeding as planned. The concept of a 1,000-man shock force still has support of both the British and OPC, and pending policy determination by the respective governments of the creation and utilization of such a force, planning work is being conducted by both SIS and OPC.

2. PROPAGANDA: At present, the tempo of activity in the PW campaign has moderated as the ban against leaflet dropping activities imposed by the State Department in April has not been lifted. Although small quantities of leaflets are being dropped as a deceptive measure when body drops are made, it is not anticipated the covert aircraft will be used frequently for leaflet drops when the ban is lifted, as demands for its services are so great and as the British have expressed a willingness to undertake the responsibility for these drops of propaganda material using RAF planes. The covert NCFA radio station has not gone on the air to date because of technical difficulties. However, to prevent further delay, immediate commencement of broadcasts using the shore based equipment has been authorized until final testing of the equipment aboard the covert vessel has been completed. The NCFA newspaper SHQIPERIA continues to be published semi-monthly and a miniature edition is now published which will be used in air drops and in the mailing campaign.

3. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: Consideration is being given to the problem of expanding the NCFA to include representatives of two additional forces on the Albanian political scene. Since May, when the Yugoslav sponsored Albanian organization was publicly announced and its activities became generally known, it has become evident that a strong rival to the NCFA has developed. Rather than promote a complete overthrow of the Hoxha government, it is now believed the Yugoslavs plan to take over the Albanian Government by replacing a few leading figures and attempt to set up a Communist nationalist state. To counteract Yugoslav intentions pending the formulation of U.S. policy toward Albania in the light of this Yugoslav interest, OPC plans to increase its support of the NCFA and work towards development of the Committee's strength and assets.

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